

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-22 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,106,461 to Kakigi et al. (hereinafter "Kakigi").

The Office Action asserts that Kakigi teaches many of the features as recited in the subject matter of the pending claims. However, Kakigi does not teach the features recited in amended claims 1-22. Specifically, the reference does not teach at least extracting transmission identification information which a document receives through the Internet facsimile communications, and which corresponds to and is transmitted by a sender, as positively recited in the pending claims. Specifically, the reference refers to traditional facsimile transmissions, and not facsimile transmissions over Internet networks or IP networks.

The Office Action improperly asserts that facsimile transmission over IP networks corresponds to the disclosure of Kakigi, particularly, col. 64, lines 40-48 and Fig. 41 of Kakigi. The Kakigi reference refers to traditional facsimile service, and does not specifically identify facsimile transmissions over an IP network. The significant differences between traditional facsimile communications and Internet/IP network communications would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art as distinctly different technologies. Further, with respect to Fig. 41 of Kakigi, facsimile transmission over IP networks is not taught, nor would it have been suggested. Instead, Fig. 41 illustrates a print server connected to a computer by means of the Internet. However, simply connecting a print server to an Internet network does not teach, nor would it have suggested, any specific type of communication, including Internet/IP network facsimile communication.

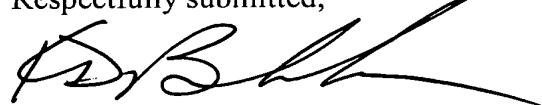
Additionally, Kakigi fails to teach an automatically sorting process in accordance with the type of sort that the transmission identification information extracted in the extracting of transmission identification information contains the urgency degree information and if it is judged that the received document is a document of high urgency based on the urgency degree information, as positively recited in the pending claims, and further discussed at least in page 11, and shown in Fig. 7, of the Applicants' disclosure. In contrast, Kakigi teaches a number of modes based on external characteristics of a document, such as the user or the paper associated with a document, at least in col. 16, lines 19-46. However, the characteristic of high urgency, an internal characteristic of the document, is not weighed in any sorting process of Kakigi.

For at least the above reasons, Kakigi does not teach, nor would it have suggested, the combination of features as positively recited in claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 16 and 19. Further, claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-15, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 are also allowable at least for their dependence on allowable independent claims as enumerated above, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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